

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS News

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE February 21, 1967 8:00 PM

CITY Washington, DC

FOIAB3B

KENNEDY THINKS IT UNFAIR

JOHN MYER: "Director Richard Helms of the Central Intelligence Agency has told Congress in secret committee session, that his agency is withdrawing covert financial support from some of the private organizations it's been subsidizing.

"Word of that promise was relayed to newsmen following the meeting with Helms, by Georgia's Democratic Senator Richard Russell, who chairs the Senate panel supervising CIA activities.

"Russell, while he won't identify all the groups to be affected, says it would be a mistake and a waste of money to continue investigating government funds in the National Student Association. It was the NSA involvement that launched the current controversy over CIA activities."

"Senator Robert F. Kennedy says tonight that, if the CIA was wrong in underwriting private organizations, like the National Student Association, it was the fault of the Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson Administrations. Such basic decisions, claims the New York Democrat, are not made unilaterally by the CIA. All relevant government agencies are contacted for their approval, and that, he says, includes the White House.

"And Kennedy adds, 'I think it's unfair that the Central Intelligence Agency should take the rap on this. Missouri's Democratic Senator Stuart Symington also says the CIA was operating under what he terms policies and instructions of others.'"

MORI/CDF